



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Karolyn Braun
Onboard NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA
October 6 – 28, 2006

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Karolyn Braun
NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA
Mission: TAO Buoy Array Maintenance
Friday, October 27, 2006

Plan of the Day

Transit to 8N/180W
Assist Deck crew with clean-up
All Hands BBQ

So we have one more TAO buoy to visit to conduct a repair on, and then we are on our way to Kwajalein. Everyone and everything is quieting down some. We have a bunch of tournaments going on: Backgammon, Darts, Sequence, Scrabble, Poker and Cribbage. I signed up for darts and sequence. Should be

fun. At least it is something to do during our three-day transit to Kwajalein.



The XO grills dinner for the crew.

Well after a hot and humid workday, the officers of the KAIMIMOANA celebrated a successful cruise by having a BBQ for everyone onboard. The Executive Officer was the star chef of the evening, grilling up shrimp kabobs, ribs, steak, chicken and burgers. The stewards made yummy salads. Overall it was a nice evening out on the fantail—the first real evening where everyone sat, ate and had conversation. Normally in the galley everyone is either tired, in need of a shower, or wants some quiet time. After



The crew enjoys its dinner on the fantail of the ship.

dinner I played a game of darts, which I lost but was still fun. And I watched a movie: *Yours,*

Mine and Ours.

Saw a nice looking shark so today's lesson: SHARKS!

Sharks are amazing fish that have been around since long before the dinosaurs existed. They live in waters all over the world, in every ocean, and even in some rivers and lakes. Unlike bony fish, sharks have no bones; their skeleton is made of cartilage, which is a tough, fibrous substance, not nearly as hard as bone.

There are many different species of sharks that range in size from the size of a person's hand to bigger than a bus. Fully-grown sharks range in size from 7 inches (18 cm) long (the Spined Pygmy shark), up to 50 feet (15 m) long (the Whale shark). Most sharks are intermediate in size, and are about the same size as people, 5-7 feet (1.5-2.1 m) long. Half of the 368 shark species are less than 39 inches (1 m) long.

Sharks may have up to 3,000 teeth at one time. Most sharks do not chew their food, but gulp it down whole in large pieces. The teeth are arranged in rows; when one tooth is damaged or lost, another replaces it. Most sharks have about five rows of teeth at any time. The front set is the largest and does most of the work.

When some sharks (like the Great White or the Gray Reef shark) turn aggressive prior to an attack, they arch their back and throw back their head. This places their mouth in a better position for taking a big bite. They also move their tail more acutely (probably in preparation for a chase).

Sharks do not normally attack people, and only about 25 species of sharks have been known to attack people. Sharks attack fewer than 100 people each year. Many more people are killed by bees or lightning.

The largest sharks are decreasing in numbers around the world because of being hunted by people. The Great White shark, the Basking shark, and the Whale shark are all waning. The Great White is protected along the coast of California and South Africa.

Are you interested in learning more about sharks? Browse the Internet, there is tons of information out there. The more you learn, the more you know and knowledge is power!